

Name Date

KIDS SCIENCE NEWS NETWORK

PURPOSE

To demonstrate the physics of sound such as vibration

MATERIALS

plastic straw scissors

Squawker: A Sound Exploration

PROCEDURE

- 1. Flatten the last inch of one end of the straw (a ruler works well).
- 2. Make two diagonal cuts to the flattened end of the straw. See diagram.



- 3. Put the pointed end of the straw into your mouth. Blow through the straw to create a "squawking" sound.
- 4. As you continue to blow, cut about 1 inch of the straw off the bottom and listen for how the sound changes. (For safety, have children stop blowing, take the straw out of their mouth, and then cut it. Now, they are ready to blow again.)
- 5. Continue blowing and cutting the straw shorter while listening to the change in the sound.

CONCLUSION

- 1. What part of the straw is vibrating?
- 2. Explain how the squawker produced sound?
- 3. Why did the sound change as you cut the end of the straw?
- 4. Name musical instruments that produce sound in the same way as the squawker.